



Chorlton Unitarians

Autumn 2014 Newsletter

Minister's Musings

Well it's certainly beginning to feel like Autumn at last! It's lovely to scuffle through the dry leaves. I managed to postpone it by going on holiday to Sicily in September for two weeks where it was hot and sunny. Now however we are back in the swing of things again with school and University terms and new starts, which may seem odd for Autumn but fits in well with the Jewish religious calendar of Rosh Hashanah which is a New Year celebration. Like gardeners it is a good time to tidy up, clear away all the old spent stuff and prepare for the winter. It can be a time of review and a time of planning. Autumn shows us that we can change and that repair our errors ready for a fresh new spring. And once we have gathered up all the pruned branches we can celebrate with a metaphorical bonfire!

Information about our services on Sundays at 10.30 a.m. is on the blog attached to our website and on our Facebook page (see back page)

Nicky Jenkins

I am available for Pastoral matters and Weddings, Baby Namings and Funerals and can be contacted on 0161 224 5289 or by e-mail on revnickyj@icloud.com

New Evening group Spirit of Life

Nearly every Sunday we sing Carolyn McDade's song Spirit of Life which has become 'our song' at Chorlton Unitarians.

Spirit of Life

Come unto me Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion

Roots hold me close, Wings set me free

Move in the hand giving life the shape of Justice

In 7 weekly sessions you will have the opportunity to grow your own spirituality by listening, reflecting and sharing Starting at 7.30 and ending at 9pm, each session looks at an extract from the song

21/10 The Stirrings Of Compassion: Caring For One Another

28/10 Blow In The Wind, Rise In The Sea: Nature And Spirit

4/11 Move in the Hand: Living Our Spirituality in Our Day-to-day Lives

11/11 Giving Life The Shape Of Justice: Loving Your Neighbour And Yourself

18/11 Roots Hold Me Close: Tradition, Teachers, and Spiritual Formation

25/11 Wings Set Me Free: Hopes, Dreams, and Expanding Vision

2/12 Come to Us: Closing and Continuing On



Gift Day November 2nd



Dear Friends

Please note the date of this service, which is when we appeal for an annual gift for the church.

As you know we are not well funded and we have done remarkably well for such a small group. The church is looking better than it has for twenty years with recent renovations and we have recently spent £9000 on the heating. Most of this is from our own resources.

WE have to maintain the building and fund our excellent part time Minister. Our finances are creaking. WE are not trying to make anybody feel uncomfortable or pressured, and your weekly gifts are appreciated.

Will you please bear all this in mind when you are deciding on a donation appropriate to your circumstances? Any fund raising ideas welcome. Taxpayers please use the Gift Aid envelopes and sign a one off Declaration.

People comment on Chorlton Unitarians as a warm and welcoming community and with your help we can continue and grow.

Best wishes

Treasurer Tom

Unitarian Renewal Group – Growing Our Faith,

Bury, 27/9/2014.

We joined a group of Unitarians at Bury Church to hear the opinions of four of our Ministers on the topic of 'Growing our faith'. As Philip Larkin says – '*a serious house on serious earth it is*' -that's what we experienced on Saturday.

John Allerton started the proceedings with his experience of ministry over many years. His narrative of hard work in the local area didn't result in a growing congregation. He dismissed most of the initiatives taken on by the movement over many years - money, RE, youth work, change of governance, mission statements et al. - as failures. He suggested that our movement has done its work and we should be Taoist and let it go.

We question whether we need the traditional forms of worship to be 'serious people'. Our response is that religious traditions put new people off, those who are looking for a spiritual community without the support system of pews and pulpits.

Marion Baker (GA President) asked the question 'why are we here'? Why do we continue to support the Unitarian movement. Her answer – working together as a community, welcoming new members and encouraging new ideas, should be the bottom line of our communities. What interests us is what happens after we've welcomed them, why we and they are here.

The first afternoon speaker was Danny Crosby who shone out as a passionate new minister, encouraging people to join with him on his spiritual journey. He talked of active spiritual seekers with no absolutes, and his practical examples included various forms of engagement groups, backed up by his work online. Danny's guiding principle is – 'come as you are, but don't expect to leave in the

same condition', seeking, as Martineau said, an enlightened conscience. Danny's thesis was full of hope and optimism.

Anna Jarvis is beginning her first ministry, having successfully completed her training at UCM. She emphasised the WHY of faith, translating it into action. She sees her job as nurturing the community and herself, finding salvation in right relationship. Anna emphasised liberating ourselves by connecting to the community, ie. 'walking the talk'. Her overarching vision is from the UUA principle standing on the side of love. The inevitable small group sessions followed in the afternoon; we thank the organisers of the Unitarian Renewal Group for an interesting and thought-provoking day. It was interesting to hear four very different views of ministry. We feel that the Unitarian movement will have a vibrant future with new ministers such as Danny and Anna.

Sheila Jones & Amanda Birchenough.

Our New Website

www.chorltonunitarians.org

We have a new website which is going to be a lot more interactive than our old one. Designed by Mary Crumpton, it still lacks final content but we are gradually starting to fill it up. It contains a google calendar for events, a news page, which is blog style and info about getting married, holding a baby naming or a funeral at our church. You can also find out about the history of the church. You can subscribe to receive the newsletter by email there or read the newsletter online. The old website will continue to run as well until the new is in use by all committee members.

Chorlton Unitarians

Dates for your Diary

NOVEMBER

Saturday 1st Manchester Social Justice Trail

Sunday 2nd Community Meeting after church. All welcome

Sunday 9th Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 16th Rev Anna Jarvis from Dukinfield Unitarians

30th November Café Church followed by Spiritual walk with Mary Crumpton

DECEMBER

Thursday 4th Church Committee Meeting

Friday 12th Quiz night with bring and share supper fundraiser

Sunday 21st at 6.30pm Carol Service

What's On locally

23rd October Unitarian College Manchester AGM

22nd November Induction of Rev Shammy Webster at Rochdale Unitarian Church

What's On Nationally

24th -26th October Unitarian Women's Group, The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow

November 21st - 23rd Unitarian Association for Lay Ministry Conference. Contact Chrissie Wilkie on 0161 439 8262
Email: chrissie@wilkies.me.uk



Where to find us

Facebook page: Chorlton Unitarian Church

Website www.chorltonunitarians.org

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Chorlton Unitarian Church is grateful to the Manchester District Association for the contribution to their part-time paid Ministry